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POLICE BOMB DISPOSAL SQUAD
'buys' YMCA TRAINING COURSE

Four bomb disposal experts and a representative of the Montreal Police Department's Identification Bureau have enrolled in the Downtown YMCA's scuba diving course.

The men will be part of the regular class scheduled to start in mid-January.

While you won't find any toddlers in Montreal's Downtown YMCA pool, chances are that you'll meet a number of grandparents being taught how to take their first strokes there.

Growth of learn-to-swim classes for the very young has prompted this Y to concentrate on the frequently neglected adult section of the population.

Milton D'Ganigian the Downtown Y's aquatics director, estimates he has over the past seven years trained dozens of instructors and helped some 800 adults develop the ability to enjoy themselves in water.

Emphasis of Milt's program, which is considered one of the most progressive in Canada, is on various types of recreational swimming and on life-saving.

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A husky 29-year old, married and the father of a boy and girl, he is convinced no one is too old to learn to swim. Backing this conviction, he stakes his professional reputation every time he enrolls a new student.

"Anyone who sticks with one of our six-week beginners courses will walk out a swimmer," is his unequivocal guarantee.

Milt defines as "a swimmer" anyone who can jump into the deep end of the pool and swim $1\frac{1}{2}$ lengths. After that, "its just a matter of practising to improve style and develop endurance."

His oldest student was an 81-year old man who had never before done any swimming, but decided to learn under doctor's orders.

A self taught swimmer, Milt is considered something of a maverick by fellow swimming directors. But, assisted by 20 qualified instructors, he has contributed significantly to the development of YMCA aquatic standards across Canada.

Milt started giving instruction at age 16, when he became coach of a teen-age group at the International YMCA, in the North End of Montreal.

Some 10 years ago he became interested in scuba diving and subsequently designed the only bilingual underwater log book in existence.

Interest in scuba diving prompted him to enroll in the Sir George Williams University course in oceanography. This, in turn, attracted him to underwater photography and, again spurred by inventive instincts, he developed a new type of waterproof camera case.

Using versions of this development, he will this January introduce Canada's first course in underwater photography.